

Site Name	Region: 6	INFRA or Forest Site ID	14990
Elk Lake Campground	Forest: Willamette	District:	Detroit



Site Type: Campground	Trash Cans <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tent Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reasonable Visitor Protection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Amenities- Must have 5 of 9	Fire Ring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Drinking Water <input type="checkbox"/>	Access Roads <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Fee Collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Toilet Facilities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Picnic Tables <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REA Fee Type	Expanded Amenity
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### Change Summary

Action Requested:	New Fee
Proposed Fee:	\$8.00
Start Date:	8/1/2007
Expected Annual Occupancy (%)	40
Additional Fee Structure:	

\$16 double site/night  
\$5 extra vehicle/night

### Current Situation

Date of Last Fee Increase:	
Current Fee	\$0
Current Annual Occupancy (%)	30
Additional Fee Structure:	

### Financial Information

Annual O&M:	\$9,000
Deferred Maint. Backlog	\$500
Start-Up Costs	\$1,000
Current Revenue	\$0
Predicted Revenue	\$9,028
Difference in revenue associated with fee change:	\$9,028

### Planned Accomplishments

- ☐ Increase Hours of Operation
- ☒ Improve facilities / Services
- ☒ Reduce Deferred Maintenance
- ☒ Maintain Site to Standard

Planned Accomplishments and Methods for Informing the Public:

Fees go towards maintaining and operating the site to standard. Fees would help provide more visitor protection and pay for replacement of old wooden barriers. Methods for informing the public of accomplishments include: onsite posters and publishing in the annual Forest Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Report.

### Reason for Changing Fee

Adding this campground and charging a fee is an outcome of the Recreation Site Facility Master Planning process. The recommended fees would help cover the cost of annual O&M, and provide for a sustainable campground program. The fee is consistent with other campgrounds within the area that offer similar amenities and services, and would align with average market price of \$8. Local sites providing similar services and amenities range from an \$8 to \$10 camping fee and all have a \$5 extra vehicle fee.

- ☐ Align fee to local market
- ☐ Inflationary Increase
- ☒ Outcome of RSFMP Process
- ☒ Increase / Improve Service
- ☐ Add Amenity

Level of Complexity:

Low Complexity

## Results of Not Implementing Fee Change

Limited appropriated funding covers only a portion of operation and maintenance costs of recreation sites. Over time this site would fall below standard. Consequently, if costs cannot be recouped, it would result in increased deferred maintenance within this site and the overall campground program. Reducing or eliminating services, or decommissioning or closing this site would result in adverse resource impacts and is not a viable alternative that was determined in the RSFMP. Furthermore, there is a need to improve this site to help alleviate uncontrolled recreation impacts to resources and provide for a high public demand.

- ☐ Reduce Season or Service
- ☐ Eliminate Season or Service
- ☐ Decommission Site
- ☐ Close Site

## Public Participation

Have the following tasks been accomplished? ☒ Yes

### New Fee Minimum Tasks

- Six months advance notice in Federal Register
- Announcement in local media
- Announcements near or in site where fee will be implemented
- Briefing with federal legislators (per WO direction)
- Give people an opportunity to review project plans (if completed) (from Interagency Federal Register Notice)

### Fee Change Minimum Tasks

- Announcement in local media
- Announcements near or in site where fee will be implemented
- Briefing with federal legislators (per WO direction)

## Other Public Participation Tasks

Beginning June 2006, announcements for public comment regarding the proposal to add Elk Lake Campground into the Recreation Fee Program was posted at the site, at the Detroit Ranger District visitor information center and on the Willamette National Forest Website. Federal legislators were briefed about 2007 Willamette NF recreation fee program proposals on 5/30/06 and 7/14/06. A Federal Register was published on 11/29/06 (Volume 71, Number 229). A news release was sent out on January 8, 2007 to the local media resulting with two articles published; one in the Salem area Statesman Journal on 2/25/07 and another in the Mill City Independent Press on 1/24/07. A legal notice was published in the Eugene Register-Guard Newspaper on 2/6/07.

## Public Participation Results

No written public comments have been received. During a routine patrol, a visitor stated he was delighted to see new toilets and hear about future improvements and felt there was a need for a fee to manage the use.

## Brief Description of Project Area

Elk Lake Campground is located adjacent the Bull of the Woods Wilderness on the Willamette National Forest, Detroit Ranger District, about 57 miles east of Salem, Oregon. It is within a 1 to 2½ hour drive of the Willamette Valley and Portland Metropolitan areas. This rustic campground is situated on the west end of Elk Lake, a popular 64 acre lake that 'feels' remote yet is not too far away for most. The campground was established in the 1930's then reverted to an undeveloped site because funding wasn't sufficient to maintain the site. Elk Lake has since become a hotpot and is being "loved to death" with the continual loss and damage to vegetation. Restoration efforts are underway to re-establish campsites, traffic controls and rehab recreation impacts and OHV damage at the lakeshore and meadow. Improvements include: designating 16 campsites and parking areas, installing fire rings, traffic barriers and picnic tables, and adding garbage service, and will be completed prior to charging a fee. Fee collection will be through a self-service pay station. Three new toilets were installed in 2006 through Secure Rural Schools Act (Payco) funding. The road has been improved with surface rock but it is still rough requiring slow speeds. High clearance vehicles are recommended. Activities associated with the campground are boating, hiking, fishing and swimming. Visitors can enjoy day hikes from the campground into the Bull of the Woods or Opal Creek Wildernesses. The campground is open June through October when free of snow. Several undeveloped sites on the north shore of the lake will continue to remain free of charge. Occupancy is expected to increase because of improvements.